

The Making of A Uke Company

We have a special feature in this issue: The Ohana Story (The Making of A Uke Company). Louis Wu, of Ohana, shares with us the story of Ohana Ukulele and how the company came to be. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to bring you the story behind Ohana and really appreciate all that Louis has done for this magazine and the community of ukulele enthusiasts globally.

We have something new from Kala Ukes this issue. We are giving away one of Kala's ukulele stands and also a digital tuner. So, we'll have two winners in this issue.

In keeping with the "something new" mindset, we have some beautiful hard-shell cases from Ohana that we will be reviewing along with some beautiful gig baas. You'll find the review of Ohana's hard-shell soprano uke case right after the review of their new SK-22Z ukulele (which features a zebrawood back and sides with a solid spruce top.

We have another "Wolfelele Kit" in review. This time, it is a baritone Wolfelele. I have been bouncing e-mails back and

forth with Wolf Kater on the concept of a solid-wood Wolfelele and also possible refinements in the uke kits. The first of those is in this baritone kit. We swapped the walnut saddle for a maple saddle. That will aive the uke more sustain and volume. Read all about it in the review.

We have a CD review of Davenport Johnson "Squinch" in this issue. What a beautiful CD cover. Check out the review.

We have been hoping for lots of great guestions on ukulele construction, tonewoods, and more in the "Builder's Corner" and we have not had that many e-mails at this point. I want to encourage you to submit your question on ukulele setup, building, repair, refinishing, etc... The answers will come straight from the experts at KoAloha. Questions don't have to be about KoAloha ukes in particular, they can be about ukuleles in general.

If you have questions about specific ukuleles by other makers, submit then to me on the comments at our download site and we will do our best to

get you some answers. In the way of news...

While guitar sales are down, down, down, it seems that ukulele sales are still booming. It is difficult for manufacturers to keep up with the demand. So, if you are contemplating the purchase of a new ukulele, don't delay. You might lose your opportunity if you wait- or you might find yourself waiting a lot longer than you planned.

There are tons of great accessories available even if your favorite uke is not. Check online for lots of great sales over the summer. When you buy that new uke, don't forget a nice case, tuner, and other goodies.

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The Ohana Story

Ohana Ukulele has grown from a start-up ukulele company to one of the top players in the industry in just a few short years.

I wanted to interview Louis Wu, founder of Ohana, and talk about how it all began, his vision for the company from its inception, and whether that vision has changed over the years.

When Ohana began, the ukulele was growing in popularity, but it had not hit the mainstream, yet. Now that people everywhere are getting the bug and everyone is taking up ukulele, the rate of production can barely meet the appetite of the consumer.

I am sure that nobody anticipated the present market condition, but everyone is enjoying it. Before the "wave" hits the shoreline, I am sure that everyone in the industry will need a vacation. For now, though, they are riding that wave for as long as they can.

I sent Louis a bunch of questions in a traditional "interview style" and at first, he started answering them, but Louis switched to the format you see here— he started writing his thoughts and telling the Ohana Story in a "stream of consciousness" sort of fashion. It tells the story very well. So... Here it is:

hana Ukuleles officially started in August of 2006, so it has almost been 5 years since we began designing and marketing the Ohana line.

It is nostalgic to look back at where everything first got started.

Naturally most of our earliest dealers are from around Southern California when we are located. The first Ohana sale was made to Shirlev Orlando at Island Bazaar in Huntington Beach (aka Surf City, USA). There were other stores that have also been in the area for many years-like Johnny Thompson Music, McCabe's Guitar Shop, and Gilmore Music- just to name a few. In many ways, they are much more than just Ohana dealers to us. Many are friends and mentors. Without their support and encouragement, and without their feedback and suggestions they freely give over the years, Ohana would not be what it is today.

That leads to the name, Ohana Ukuleles. I felt that I needed a

name that would truly represent the business and its culture. Ohana started with just me, a one-man operation. I wanted it to be more than just a business. And what better name than Ohana where people can truly feel that they are part of a family! My vision at the time was to begin a family business where I could bring quality instruments to the market that are at reasonable prices.

As a family business starting out with just myself, my focus wasn't to reach out to as many dealers as I could; rather, I wanted to make sure that instrument sound and quality on the Ohana ukes had to be assured.

With musical instruments, probably nothing is more important than the way that they are built in order to produce the right sound. Equally important is the build-quality of the instruments. So Ohana instruments sound and quality were the two main focuses of my business from the start– and they will remain our focus as we continue going forward.

To this date, we still inspect and adjust every instrument in our warehouse before we ship to our Ohana dealers. It certainly takes time to do so, but we wouldn't have it any other way. It is just too important to us to make sure that our dealers and eventually their customers who purchase the Ohanas get an instrument that is thoroughly inspected and set up properly before it ships.

The early Ohana models were

mainly made of mahogany, including the all-laminated 10 series, solid-top 20 series, and the all-solid 30 series, in acoustic as well as acoustic-electric versions. Mahogany is a very consistent tone-wood, especially for ukulele-making, so to this date it is still one of the main tone-wood selections for the Ohana models.

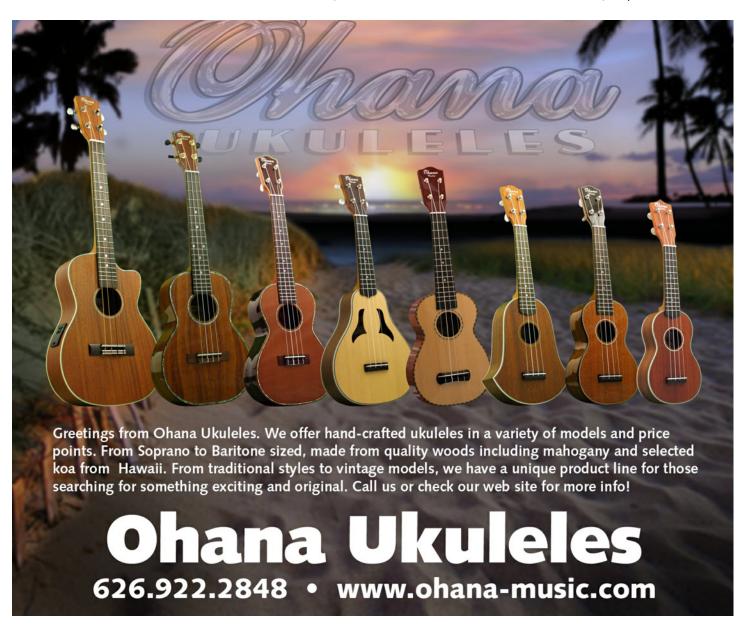
In 2007, I introduced a full range of koa models, including ones with wood-binding and abalone inlays. Over the past years, we have also introduced instruments with combinations

of cedar, spruce, rosewood, flamed mahogany and other tone woods that work very well with ukulele. So from the six models that Ohana first started out with five years ago, we now have over sixty different models spanning from sopranino to the baritone. Maintaining so many models is not an easy task, but I do want to provide a full line of instruments that different levels of players with different needs can choose from.

Interestingly, many of the original models are still in circulation just because of their

demand and popularity. The original 30 series all-solid mahogany with white binding now becomes the 35 and 35G series with rosewood binding along with other upgrades. I also wanted to use a naming system that is easy to follow.

The 10 series is all-laminated, 20 series is with solid-top, and nowadays the 25 and 35 series for the all-solid mahogany models. Our 50 series are reserved for the cedar models, 70 for the spruce, and so forth. I hope I won't run out of numbers to use one day. :-)



We continue to try out different woods and prototype instruments to find the right combination to introduce. From inception, it takes about two to three months to get to prototype, and about three months later to production completion. So the total process usually takes about half a year.

Besides the more traditional models, over the years we have explored and built vintage reproduction instruments. Roy Smeck's Vita Uke is one that comes to mind, and this CKP-70 series model has continued to be played by many since it was first introduced in 2007.

A more recent addition is the SK-38, a reproduction model of the Martin 2M mahogany soprano. Others are variations that we feel will work well, such as the recently introduced fivestring tenor. It isn't a new concept, but we just felt that the double-course low-G and high-G will add to the fullness of tone on a tenor instrument, and that prompted us to give this new instrument a try.

The resophonic uke has been getting some attentions as well. It is a joint effort between Ohana and Delta Resonator, which is a well-known resonator maker based in UK. Because of our focus in instrument sound and quality, finding the right factories to work with and to form a long-term partnership is paramount to us. That meant travelling to different factories in order to understand their operations, manufacturing

process, business goal, production capacity, and quality control.

To me, the ideal candidate had to have staff with adequate music background, knowledge and experience in musical instrument-making, unwavering belief in product quality, and business and social integrity. Once a manufacturing facility is on-board, samples would have to be made for evaluations. And since my need was auite small at the time, it took just two-and-one-half months from samples to first production to have my start-up inventory readv.

In 2008, I hired our first employee, Daniel, to assist me with instrument inspection and setup. At about the same time, Ken Middleton who resides in the U.K. joined Ohana as our International Marketing Consultant. Ken also helps me in the area of product development, artist relationships, and trade-show exhibits. Our most recent hire was Stephanie who came onboard last November. Stephanie assists me in the area of order fulfillment and customer service, and just about anything else in the office that I can't get to in time...: :-)

So even today Ohana is still a small family-owned company, but hopefully the Ohana spirit is there and is being felt by everyone who comes in contact with us, Yes we do feel that our business has been built on customer satisfaction and

word-of-mouth, and I am very grateful of that fact! Our products are sold mainly through independent music stores and specialty retailers. In certain areas and countries outside the U.S., we market our products through music instrument distributors. Ohana dealers and distributors in many cases are the first line of contacts with players and consumers.

Once a qualified dealer or distributor signs up with us, we will then work closely with them to support their efforts in sales, marketing, and customer support.

And yes over the years there were some hits and misses. But since our focus has never been on high volume sales the initial misses actually had not impacted us much. The bellshaped uke, for example, is a vintage reproduction. It was not a hot-selling item, but we decided to keep it in our product lineup because of its uniqueness and tonal quality. So it may have been misses from a sales and financial point-ofview, but we are just as happy as long as there are players out there who want and appreciate them.

I'd like to thank Louis Wu for sharing the Ohana story with us. I'd also like to thank Louis for all the ukuleles and case, gig bags, etc... Without his help we would not have built our readerbase so quickly.



Ohana SK-22Z

Ohana Ukulele has a winner with and projects sound very well. the new SK-22Z, a soprano uke with laminated zebrawood back and sides and a solid spruce top.

The ukulele has a rosewood fretboard and bridge, a bone nut and saddle, lightweight geared tuners, and a satin finish.

The body has white plastic binding giving the uke a classy look. I love the binding against the zebrawood.

On the sample uke, the fit and finish are perfect. The mahogany neck has a comfortable "c" shape to it and the heel is small making it easier to reach the highest frets.

The action on this uke is low and fast, but no buzzing. Strung with Aquila Nylguts, it has a lot of volume and while punchy, there is great note separation and strumming produces a clean tone. This is a great uke for playing old Vaudeville tunes.

My first impression when picking up the uke was that it was a little heavier than I thought it would be. I realized that it is due to the laminated back and sides, not the bracing. Zebrawood is actually a very nice tone-wood

With its zebrawood back and sides and solid spruce top, this little ukulele has BIG volume.

One nice touch that is strictly cosmetic is the zebrawood veneer on the face of the headstock. I really like the look of it. The white-pearl geared tuner "buttons" look great with it.

Running my fingers down the neck, I found no sharp frets and no tips were exposed. The are all beautifully dressed. There are pearl dots at the fifth, seventh, and tenth frets. There are fifteen frets in all.

The rosette is a subtle, but stylish, three line pattern. On the spruce top, this gives it a classic look. The bridge is a vintage Martin-style, which is not too common on modern ukuleles, but it is the perfect choice for this instument.

I am very particular about soprano ukes. When they are loud, they have to remain clear or I am not interested. This uke passes the test. It is loud without turning muddy or sounding harsh. Even when strumming hard, it doesn't breakdown.

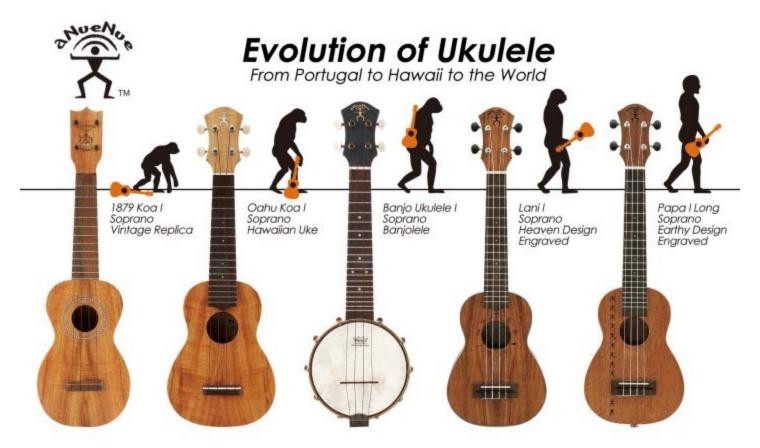
I was at a picnic yesterday and played a soprano uke with two





guitarists strumming hard. I wish I had this uke with me. I would be nice to give it a test like that. I am confident that it would hold its own well.

This little soprano uke is a great performer. It holds tune well. It's loud and clear. It is very affordable and has a timeless look about it. If you want a great player and a great price, this is a winner.



http://www.anuenue-uke.com/html_version/#frame_index

What A Performer!

I attended a jam-session at a Fourth of July celebration and all I had with me was this little aNueNue Vision 1879 soprano ukulele (pictured at the right).

Two guitarists were pounding away at their steel-string behemoths while I played the little vintage-reproduction beautifully crafted by aNueNue.

Wow, what a performer! This little uke not only held its own, it

could be heard loud and clear and virtually everyone was pleasantly surprised.

All the listening audience loved the sound of the uke and everyone was amazed that it could be heard so clearly when the two guitarists were playing hard and fast.

Yep, it is simply incredible what a well-designed and well-built ukulele can do. I am impressed.







Ohana Cases and Gig Bags

When Louis Wu sent me the Ohana SK-22Z uke for review, he packed it in an Ohana UCH-21 hard-shell case.

The case features a rugged, pebble surface that looks really great. The handle is smooth plastic and feels durable. The clasps are strong and hold nicely.

When I opened the case, I found that it featured a heavy

plush interior. There is a lot of padding around the ukulele body to keep it well protected.

The storage compartment is small, but it will easily hold a clamp-on tuner. Strings will not fit inside, but that is not a problem for me.

The case is very solid and protective, yet it still feels lightweight when you carry it around for any length of time.

I like the fact that I can open it and the case does not tip over. Some cases do tip, even with a ukulele in them. This one sits nicely on its own, even when empty. So, if you are busking, this makes a great money catcher, too.

The lid has a padded section over the bridge that extends up the body a good distance, I really like that feature. I'd like to see another padded section near the headstock, just a personal preference, really.

At \$89 suggested retail, this soprano uke case should be on everyone's list. I like to keep all my ukuleles in hard-shell cases. Ukulele World sells this "Rhino Grip" covered case for \$67 and that makes it a great value!



Ohana Gig Bags

In addition to the previously mentioned hard-shell case, Ohana also sent me some custom hard-shell cases for the "Vita" copy and the "pineapple" uke. I'll review those in future issues.

Pictured on the right is the Ohana USC21-BK, a deluxe black gig bag that features a shoulder-strap and a handle for easy carrying. The open picture shows an Ohana SK-38 inside. The bag is heavily padded and has rugged double-zippers. There is a storage compartment on the outside, handy for tuners, strings, and other stuff.

Below right are the Ohana standard sopranino gig bag, the soprano, concert, and tenor in red hibiscus, blue hibiscus, and surfboard fabric insert, respectively. These bags are durable and will do a pretty nice job keeping your ukulele from getting all scratched up when you are carrying it on the go. The zipper pocket is spacious, but not as deep as the deluxe bag pictured above.

Ukulele World sells the deluxe bag for \$27.66 and the soprano hibiscus gig bag for \$24.00, odddly, the concert hibiscus gig bag goes for \$23.45, the tenor goes for \$24.00 and the sopranino gig bag sells for \$16.95 (all prices USD).

Ohana gig bags are a great way to keep your uke from getting scratched up. If you travel a lot, get the hard case.









Baritone Wolfelele Kit

After my review of the tenor Wolfelele, Wolf Kater's ukulele kit, it was agreed that I'd review the baritone Wolfelele.

The baritone uke kit is very much like the tenor kit we reviewed previously, in a larger scale. The kit is pictured below.

I started the same way I did with the last kit, I glued the neck to the sound-board and then assembled the sides and buttplate. After they were sufficiently dried, I had to file the neck-joint a bit to fine-tune the placement of the sides and the back. When the filing was done, I glued the back into place and let it dry for several hours.

When the body of the uke was

fully assembled, I attached the fretboard and the bridge. Again, it was drying time.

When the Wolfelele was totally assembled, I waited until morning and took it outside for a clear-coat finish. A short bit of spray and I was out of clear-coat. I foraged around and came up with a recently purchased can of MinWax satin finish.

I coated the back and sides, the neck and headstock. I let all of that dry. When it was completely dry, I painted the top with a solid "forest green" acrylic paint. After that was dry, I used steel wool to give it a "distressed finish" that makes it look like a vintage folk



instrument. It is semi-transparent with edges that are a little bit worn and I really like the look.

Playing the Wolfelele, it sounds very guitar-like, which is what a standard set of baritone strings should produce in the way of tone. The instrument has the D'Addario baritone uke strings on it (DGBE came in the kit).

The neck is a little shorter scale than most baritone ukes. There are 18 frets. The screws that secure the fretboard are placed in the third, fifth, seventh, and twelth frets. There is one final screw at the end of the fretboard where it fastens to the sound-board.

The headstock is a slightly different shape on this baritone Wolfelele. It has a little different taper at the tip.

The geared tuners are longstemmed, same as the ones on the tenor model. When you string the uke, there are two



holes on the post, one near the top and one right at the base. String it from the lower hole, not the upper. That will prevent buzzing and help keep the strings from slipping.

The baritone Wolfelele has a surprising amount of volume. The tone is also nice. I'd love to see how it would sound with a pickup installed.

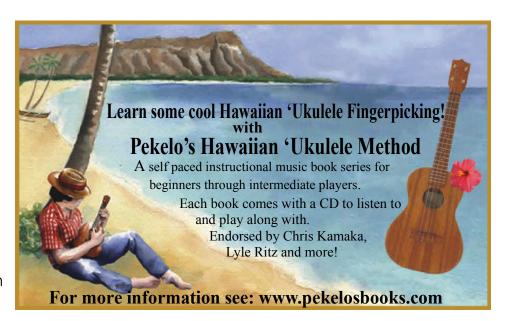
The bridge is at a slight angle on this uke. The saddle is straight, but rather than walnut, like the one on the tenor model, this uke has a maple saddle. Sustain is better with the maple saddle, which doesn't surprise me.

Wolf Kater made the saddle high so that I could lower the action to where I wanted it. For now, I left it where it is. I might lower it when I change the strings.

Like the tenor fretboard, I am impressed with the intonation on the instrument. The fretboard is preassembled so there is nothing to mess up. The frets are all nicely dressed and there are no sharp edges, either.

One observation, the neck is slightly slimmer at the nut than the tenor Wolfelele. Maybe it is due to what appears to me the same taper on a little longer scale, but there is a difference of 2mm. I spotted it right away.

Overall, it's a fun kit and not a bad player. It makes for a nice rainy-day project and would be fun for kids of all ages. And it stands on its own, too.







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- Willie K

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Davenport Johnson - Squinch

This CD is an "EP" with seven songs on it.

What immediately caught my attention is the cover art. This is a slick package. I love the photography work. It is a very professional look and feel. I would love to see more work of this quality among ukulele artists. Very nice, indeed.

Here is a quote from the "band's" website:

" ...a rootsy, folky American blend... Like back porch music, or kitchen table tunes, where the feeling is not so much Lo-Fi as it is No-Fi."

Here is the song list:

- 1. Just Before Sunrise
- 2. Monkey Washing Cat
- 3. Lullaby for A Black Balloon
- 4. Niagara
- 5. Back From Nowhere
- 6. Compass Rose
- 7. Squinch

"Just Before Sunrise" kicks off with a strumming guitar sounding somewhat thin. Shortly thereafter a ukulele joins in and the music fills up nicely. The tune starts off slowly and moves into a nice combination of strumming and picking. There is a little reverb in the mix a short way into it and it adds some color. Lead quitar kicks in the take the tune home.

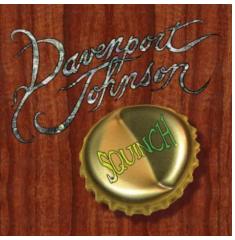
"Monkey Washing Cat" starts with some picking ukulele and solid strum in the background. There are some slow lead licks dubbed into the mix. Speaking of the mix, I don't hear any bass on either of these two tracks thus far. Having a bass guitar myself, I'd love to throw one into the mix.

"Lullaby for A Black Balloon" features a strumming guitar, somewhat dry, with a picked ukulele. This is an improvisational situation here. Mellow tune.

"Niagara" starts with guitar high in the mix, and a lead with some distortion. Then a rhythm with a lot more distortion and it sounds like compression. The Risa electric uke has a bell-like quality in this tune.

"Back From Nowhere" starts with guitar and a Black Bear Cigarbox uke. There is a bass guitar buried in there somewhere, but, it must be low in the mix. I don't hear it. Of course, that might be attributed to my built-in speakers on this portable SCSI CD player (yes, a computer peripheral).

"Compass Rose" features a Compass Rose tenor uke and a G-String (uke that is). I do like the



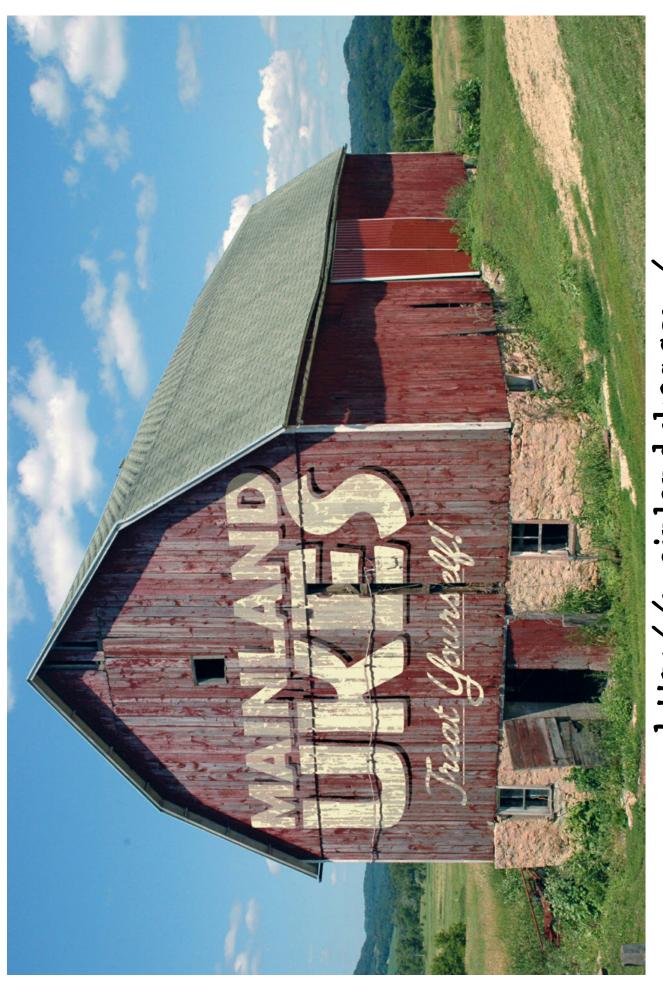
tone of these two ukuleles. Both sound full and sweet– as ukuleles go. I like the rhythm accents. Timing is excellent.

"Squinch" is the title track and also the last number on this collection of instrumentals. It kicks off with acoustic guitar and shortly after another comes in with heavy distortion. There are some harmonic overtones bouncing around on this song. My guess is some natural reverb off the walls of the room where this was recorded.

This song is a driving tune. Throw in a full drum kit and a kicking bass guitar and it is southern-blues jam material. The ending caught me totally of guard.

Over all, the musicianship is good. The collection of instruments is really nice. What is lacking is bass and percussion, but, what these guys bring to the table is some pretty solid playing guitar technique and a good grasp of mixing the uke and guitars together to make a pretty full sound.

I'd like to hear more tunes, seven is not enough. Make another. :o)



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CD Photos

Long, Long Ago and Far Away...
I used to take pictures of rock
bands and other musical acts
for their press-kits and album
covers. Yes, that was when you
had lots of room for pictures on
the cover and if you had an
inner envelope, it typically had
song lyrics, and some nice
photographs to keep the
listening audience's attention
while they played the "record".

These days, a lot of CD jewel cases are being tossed aside in favor of cardboard disposable folding covers. They often look nice, but many times, they are nothing but the bare essentials, a song-list and the copyright notifications.

What you need if you are planning a really high-quality recording is some professional caliber images to enhance your CD cover. A booklet with the lyrics of your songs and some photos really add to the market value of the project.

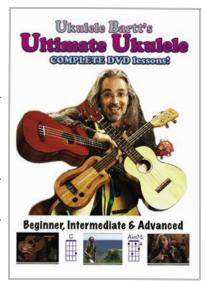
Avoid cluttered backgrounds. If possible, shoot against a backdrop and use studio lighting. I prefer photo floods because you can guarantee that there will be no red eye ruining an otherwise fantastic image.

It is worth paying a studio for some top-quality shots for your press-kit and other promotional materials. The more professional you look, the more money you will be able to make with gigs and festivals.



Learn to Play 'ukulele with Bartt

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Ken Middleton's Ukulele E-Books

You might know Ken Middleton from the ukulele forums, and you might have watched a bunch of his wonderful videos, but did you know that Ken has authored three e-books of ukulele tunes?

The three are as follows:

- 12 Hymn Tunes for Ukulele
- 12 Tunes for Bluegrass Ukulele
- 12 Tunes for Celtic Ukulele

The book of hymns has the following tunes:

- 1 Abide With Me
- 2 Amazing Grace
- 3 Away In A Manger
- 4 Eternal Father, Strong To Save
- 5 Here Is Love, Vast As The Ocean
- 6 Higher Ground Page 19-20
- 7 Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory
- 8 Search Me, O God
- 9 Shall We Gather At The River?
- 10 What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- 11 When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- 12 When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder

The book of Bluegrass tunes has the following:

- 1 A Bluegrass Calypso
- 2 Angel Band
- 3 East Virginia
- 4 I Am A Pilgrim
- 5 Just A Closer Walk With Thee
- 6 Sally Goodin
- 7 Skip To My Lou
- 8 The Great Speckled Bird
- 9 The Wabash Cannonball
- 10 Under The Double Eagle
- 11 West Fork Gals
- 12 Worried Man Blues

The Celtic tunes book contains the following:

- 1 Brian Borouhme
- 2 Castles In The Air
- 3 Fisher's Hornpipe
- 4 Humphrey's Hornpipe
- 5 Lady's Fancy
- 6 Larry O'Gaff
- 7 Light And Airy
- 8 Loch Na Garr
- 9 She Moved Through The Fair
- 10 The Gypsy Rover
- 11 The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls
- 12 The Lord Of The Dance

Ken did a fantastic job with these books. From the collection of tunes, to the playing styles, from the tabs to the midi files for you to play with as you learn each number, everything is well-planned and has a very professional presentation.

The midi files are included so that you can play along— to facilitate learning. There are three midi files for each song. There are slow, medium and fast tempo midi files so that you can start in easy-mode and as you get more fluid and progress, you can step up to the next faster tempo. Finally, when you have mastered the medium-tempo, you can jump to the "live" performance tempo and perfect the songs.

This is a great idea. I applaud



Ken for having created this concept.

IF you are wondering about the "spiritual songs" in the bluegrass collection, they shouldn't be a surprise. Appalachian "bluegrass: music has always included Gospel favorites and many old-time tunes share melodies with Gospel songs. There is also a little Celtic flavor in bluegrass, too, thanks in large part to Irish and Scots that settled the Appalachian Mountain range in America's early years.

I can't say enough good things about the setup of these books. The design of the cover-page is really nice. The music tabs are great. The midis are absolutely brilliant. I love the concept of stepping up the tempo as you progress.

On Ken's website, you can check out the booksat this URL:

http://kenmiddleton.co.uk/ebooks.aspx

There are some free tabs on Ken's website as well as the ones reviewed here. Ken did a fantastic job with these three books. Take a look. For \$12 USD they are well worth it.

Find Some Shade

I mentioned previously that I attended a picnic/jam session over the holiday weekend. The temperature hit 90 degrees in the sun.

Lucky for me, I was sitting under a large shade tree and had my ukulele in my hands for much of the time.

One of the guitarists had his hard-shell case sitting in the sun and, man, was it hot.

I don't know exactly how much heat a ukulele can take. There are too many variables, I.e. Contruction materials, adhesives used, solid wood versus laminate, finish, the thickness of the sound-board and the tension of the strings, they all come into play.

Give the small cubic volume of a typical soprano ukulele case, do you want to trust that your ukulele will be fine inside in the direct sun?

I have heard many stories of bridges popping off guitars at outdoor festivals and fairs when they were encased and sitting in direct sunlight. Given the lighter construction of ukuleles, I am not willing to take any chances.

If you are heading for the beach, or some outdoor destination in the heat of summer, find a shady place to lay your precious cargo. If you can't do that, set it under your car just don't run over it later.



Got Uke?



You can find Kala Ukuleles at www.ukeladymusic.com



Kala Ukes Accessories

Let me start by saying that we are giving these away to some lucky readers. The stand will go to one reader and the tuner will go to another.

Below is the "Stand Out", a cleverly designed ukulele stand. It comes in a small box and can be assembled in seconds.

The stand is sturdy plywood



construction with mahogany veneer. The edges are covered with felt to keep from scratching your ukulele (it works for mandolin, too).

If you have ever tried to use a guitar stand for your ukulele, you know how instable that can be if not impossible. A dedicated stand is a good idea and one that looks like a piece of furniture is even better.

Set this little stand in the buy your computer desk and you can have a ukulele right there when the mood strikes you. It's great for home or the office. It's also great for stage performances. I don't know how well it would hold up if you keep taking it apart and putting it back together again, but it will keep your uke sitting pretty.

Clip-on tuners are everywhere these days. They are very convenient when you are trying to tune when surrounded by other players.

The Kala KC-03 is a cool little tuner that doubles as a metronome. If you want to practice your tempo and make sure you are keeping your meter steady, that is a real benefit and not all tuners have that feature.

The tuner has settings for "C" and "D" or chromatic tuning. If you like alternate tunings, this is a good choice for you.

I found the clamp held fast and the tuner seems accurate. I



tested it against my usual tuner and was happy with the results. It performs quite well.

I might just have to buy one of these myself. Until now, I have used clip-on tuners, on occasion, but I have never purchased one. I might have to invest in one of these soon.



UKULELE PLAYER is created using Serif PagePlus page layout and graphic design software.

http://www.serif.com

We loved MoviePlus X5 so much that from now on, we'll be using it to make all our videos for **ukulele player**.

http://www.serif.com/movieplus/



Kala Uke Accessory Give-A-Way

(on the right)

If you have not read the review, go ahead and read it now. If you have EVER submitted your name, address, and e-mail addy for any of our give-aways, you are already in the running.



Kala KC-03 tuner and the "Stand Out"

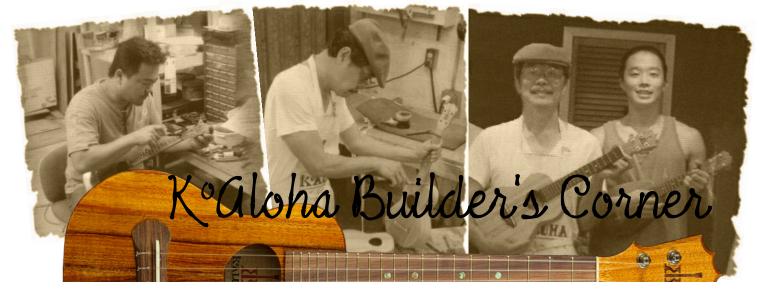
See the review on the previous page. One reader will win the stand and another will win the tuner. If you are already signed up for our previous giveaways, you don't need to enter again.

Thanks to Kala Ukes for providing these items to give-away to **ukulele player** readers. Submit your entry here:



http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke contest.htm





Q&A

Q: Do the fretboards that extend over the soundboard (to the soundhole in some cases) affect the sound of the uke?

A: Short answer, yes.

Long answer... The size, position, and geometry of the sound hole all have an effect on the sound of the instrument.

Generally speaking, larger holes tend to be louder.

A portion of what you hear does come out of the hole, but many people don't realize that the primary purpose of the sound hole is to let air in and out of the body chamber.

The ukulele, or any hollow bodied instrument, is an analog speaker box. In a traditional modern speaker, you have an electromagnet and speaker cone. An ukulele has strings and a sound board. The volume, tone, and response are all determined by how the string energy is manipulated.

The sound hole has a similar purpose to the air hole that many woofers and subwoofers have.

When the fret board extends over the sound hole, you are changing the shape and size of the hole, so it does affect the tone. The degree to which it's affected will vary and even in extreme cases be more of a nuance than a make or break situation. For fret boards that come close to the edge of the sound hole, they dampen vibration more than, say, a twelve fret ukulele where the fret-board ends at the top of the upper bout.

Heavily braced ukuleles can actually sound dull and lifeless. The same holds true for ukuleles that have thick sound boards—as in the case of many inexpensive laminated ukes.

The more vibration a sound board has the louder your ukulele can potentially be. It will often sound sweeter, too.

Send your questions via email: Uke-maker@tricornpublications.com

Have a question about ukulele contruction? tonewoods? the difference between curly koa and straight grain? ukulele setup? or the care and feeding of your uke...

Even if your ukulele is not a KoAloha, feel free to ask.

The Experts at KoAloha Ukulele will be happy to answer your questions in coming issues.

Fender Frontman 15R

If you have an Eleuke or Risa solid-body ukulele and want a decent little practice amp, look no further than the Fender Frontman 15R.

I didn't expect much from a 15 watt amplifier, but this thing is LOUD!

Here are the specs:

Inputs: One

Auxiliary Input: Stereo RCA Input Headphone Jack: 1/4" L&R Two Channels (Normal & Drive) Power: 15 Watts into 8 Ohms Controls: Normal Volume, Gain, Select Switch, Drive Volume, Treble, Mid, Bass, Reverb 3-Band EQ

Amplifier Length: 7.25"

Amplifier Width: 13.25" Amplifier Height: 12.5" Amplifier Weight: 15 lbs

Effects: Reverb (analog control)

Speaker: 1-8" Fender® Special

Design Speaker

Speaker Impedance: 8 Ohm

Miscellaneous

I wanted something for those rare occasions when I wanted to record a "lead" or all a few licks here or there. I didn't need all the "modeling" amplifiers that have flooded the market, just a simple reverb and very clean sweet tone. This amp fit the bill.

I found it for \$69 (USD) at a local



music store.

What I did not expect was the muscle of this tiny amp. It really did blow me away. Sitting in my den, I didn't even attempt to play this amp at full volume to see just how far it could go. I would even be confident that it could be used on stage in a small coffee house with no worries. I'm serious.





Ukulele Club Listings...

If you would like to list your club here, submit contact information at this website:

http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_player.htm or e-mail me at this address: mickey@tricornpublications.com We will add you to our list.

USA

Arizona

Scottsdale Strummers, Scottsdale AZ, Contact Pat McInnis weekly daytime meeting, monthly evening meeting email: pat@azukulele.com website: azukulele.com

Tucson Ukesters

Tucson, AZ
Meet weekly - usually on Monday afternoon
Contact: Kristin Keller
twoazin@comcast.net

The Tucson Ukesters - peformance group

Michael Crownhart - Group leader Contact: AzRedShoe@juno.com

Phoenix Ukulele Meetup

http://www.meetup.com/The-Phoenix-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/ 4th Thursday at Dolce Video Coffee Bar 1025 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85014 Contact: Carolyn Sechler carolyn@azcpa.com

Phoenix Ukulele Meetup

Meeting weekly on Tuesday Nights at Cabin Coffee
Other workshops and meetings as published.
Web site: http://www.meetup.com/The-Phoenix-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/
Email: Tom@Kanikapila.us

California

Nuked Ukes

We are in Auburn California. Welcoming players from all levels. contact: Loyce Smallwood loy@foothill.net www.kahi.com/loyce'sblog

Ukulele Society of America

Contact: Richard Douglas (760) 458-6656 300 Carlsbad Village Dr. Carlsbad CA, 92008 http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukulele society of america

Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz

www.ukuleleclub.com

One of the Largest Ukulele clubs in America! Usually meets every third thursday at Bocci's celler in Santa Cruz, but check the website, cause it sometimes changes. Or email Andy@cruzio.com for club information.

Ukulele University

New uke club in the Sacramento, CA. Area. Meet 1st Thursday eve monthly email: stuherreid@yahoo.com website: www.ukeuniversity.com

San Jose Ukulele Club

Every second and fourth Tuesday in the month.

Beginner session at 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting from 7 to 9 p.m.

We meet at the Fresh Choice Restaurant in the Almaden Plaza, at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road, just off Hwy 85.

e-mail: sanjoseukeclub@gmail.com

San Diego Ukulele Meetup Group

http://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/ We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Lion Coffee downtown @ 6:30pm.

"Ukulele Jam" hosted by Shirley Orlando.

Meets Thursday evenings at 6:30. All levels welcome. MUsic is contemporary, from tin pan alley to the beach boys, etc. 16852 Gothard St Huntington Beach CA 92647. shirthings@aol.com or encantada@cox.net

Petalukes, Petaluma, CA

Meet every Thursday night, other times too. All levels welcome, music provided Contact: petaluke@comcast.net website: http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluke/

High Desert Ukulele Club, Antelope Valley, Ca

highdesertukuleleclub.com or email highdesertukuleleclub@gmail.com

Canogahana Players

every second and fourth Sunday, Noon to 2PM Guitar Merchant 7503 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Canoga Park, CA

The Pluckin' Strummers - A Los Angeles Ukulele Club http://pluckinstrummers.wordpress.com/

Meet: 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. 10:00–Noon (unless otherwise stated). Christ Church Griffith Park, Atwater Village 3852 Edenhurst, Los Angeles, CA

Colorado

The **Denver Uke Community** has been bringing Ukemaniacs together since 2005, We meet each month on the third Saturday at Swallow Hill Music Association at 10:30am. All skill levels from beginner to "Wow that person ROCKS the Ukulele", we also play a wide range of music, from country, tin pan alley, Hawaiian. http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/UkuleleCommunityDenver/

Connecticut

The KookeeUkies Ukulele Club of Southern Connecticut

Visit our website on meetup.com for meetup dates and times. http://www.meetup.com/The-Ukulele-Club-of-Southern-Connecticut-The-KookeeUkies/

Ukulele Club and The Four Strings Ukulele Band of Southern Connecticut, http://www.orgsites.com/ct/uke-club/index.html petejhnsn@sbcglobal.net

Florida

Tampa Bay Ukulele Society

www.meetup.com/tampabayukes Check out the website for scheduled "meetups". This groups is very active.

Florida Ukulele Network

www.FloridaUkuleleNetwork.org F.U.N. has meet-up groups in Broward, Palm Beach, and the Space Coast

Hawaii

UkuleleClubofKona.com meets Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm Keauhou Shopping Center, 7 miles south of Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

Illinois

CHUG - CHicago Ukulele Group We have our monthly Chicago Uke Jam the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Please contact Henry at Henriness@gmail.com

Oak Park Ukulele Meetup Group aka The Harrison Street Ukulele Players
Every Thursday 7P-9P Venue: La Majada Restaurant - Banquet Room
226 Harrison Street, Oak Park IL 60304 website: www.ukulele.meetup.com/89
contact: wonderwallemporium@yahoo.com

Kansas (and Western Missouri)

Kansas City Ukesters http://www.kcuke.com

Kentucky

Kentucky Ukes meeting the fourth Sunday of every month KentuckianaUkes@yahoo.com

Michigan

Ukulele Jam, 4th Tuesday night of the Month Oz's Music Ann Arbor MI. jerryefmaily@yahoo.com

Minnesota

Two Harbors Ukulele Group (THUG), Two Harbors MN. Email: al@agatebaymusic.com

StrumMn ukulele players http://strummn.shutterfly.com/

Nevada

The Ukulele Club of Las Vegas www.meetup.com/ukulele-club-of-las-vegas

"Uke Nights in Reno" Email: Rich@PlayUke.net Local Uke gathering in Reno, NV

New Mexico

The High Desert Sand Fleas
Meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at the
Albuquerque Press Club [6pm - 9pm]

2101 Highland Park Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico - USA contact: Stephen Hunt via email: hdsfgcea@gmail.com. http://sites.google.com/site/hdsfgcea/

New York

Ukulele Club of Potsdam (New York)

meet-up every other Friday at 5PM at Tim's Comic & Game, 6 Main Street contact: Tim Connolly tim@discoverpotsdam.com call: (315) 268-1598. Loaner ukes available. Bring your uke and leave your cares at home!

The Lower Westchester Ukulele Club, Westchester County, New York http://lowerwestchesterukuleleclub.webstarts.com/ E-mail: lowerwestchesterukuleleclub@hotmail.com

North Carolina

Charlotte Area Ukulele Jam contact: ukulelerobby@gmail.com First Saturday of each month. 3 - 5 PM At "Aloha Snow" www.alohasnow.com

Ohio

COUP (Central Ohio Ukulele Peeps)

coup@tricornpublications.com

Jumping Flea Night Monthly uke strum-along

Cleveland Heights, Ohio. LAST Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30 at Coventry Village Library. Free & open to everyone!! Contact: melissaogrady@ymail.com

Oklahoma

Tulsa Ukulele Club

Meeting the needs of ukulele players in the greater Tulsa area tulsaukes.blogspot.com contact via e-mail: rskjrmail@gmail.com

Oregon

Portland Ukulele Association

http://www.pdxuke.org pua@teleport.com Making music together since 2001!

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Ukulele Kollective (Look for us on Facebook!) New uke group taking

shape. Hoping for twice monthly jams and sing-alongs for all levels. Hollidaysburg/Altoona, Pennsylvania, Contact: Steve kss15@psu.edu

South Carolina

Lowcountry Strummers Ukulele Club

Charleston, SC metro area. We meet twice a month. One beginner class and open Jam each month. All are Welcome. www.lowcountrystrummers.com e-mail lowcountrystrummers@gmail.com

Texas

Robert S. Sparkman sparky.judy@tx.rr.com

Lone Star Ukulele Club (in North Dallas)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestarukuleles

The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters

Go to www.meetup.com and search The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters to join the group. Lots of fun events and jams!

CHUG - Coffee House Ukulele Gang

Fort Worth, Texas

This wild west ukulele gang meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Contact Steve for more info. (steve w williams@yahoo.com)

Vermont

Vermont Ukulele Society

email: vyhnak@sover.net

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Virginia Ukulele Club

Vienna, Virginia

Meeting twice a month to play a huge range of traditional, tin pan alley, standards, and lots of pop tunes. Members come from the whole DC metro area, including Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland. All ages and levels of ability welcome.

Contact:

Ben Farrington ukeclub@yahoo.com

Washington

Seattle Ukulele Players Association (SUPA)

www.seattleukulele.org/

Cowlitz Ukulele Association Longview, WA. 98626

CowUke@yahoo.com

Wisconsin

CheezLand Uke Band - JoeSexton@aol.com

Wetsite: CheezLandUkeBand.com

Tuesday night at Leithold Music in downtown La Crosse, WI.

Beginners, Mid-Level, Advanced Players

Canada

STRING ALONG UKULELE CLUB DUNDAS ONTARIO CANADA www.stringalongukulele.ca

Nanaimo Ukulele Circle - Nanaimo, BC, Canada www.ukecircle.com e-mail: ukecircle@gmail.com

UK England

Ukulele Society of Great Britain

43 Finstock Road, London W10 6LU

Tel: 020 8960 0459 Email: m@gicman.com

Cambridge Ukulele Co-operative [Cuckoo]

Meet alternate Sundays 2pm-6pm
The Portland Arms Cambridge CB4 3BAlf
If you're cuckoo about ukes come and join us.
http://www.myspace.com/cambridgeukuleleclub

Ukulele Philharmonic Orchestra of Sudbury

Tuesdays evenings from 7.00pm The Institute, Station Road, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2SP Beginners Welcome

Uke Wednesday Jam

Every Wednesday 7 till closing Downstairs @ The Royal George Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EA, U.K. contact: Quinc email: qnc@qnctv.com http://ukeweds.intodit.com

SCUPA - Second City Ukulele Players Association

We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the upstairs room

at The New Billesley Pub, Brook Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands B13 OAB

We accommodate all players beginners to experienced.

Call or text Jon 0787 353 1161 or email: jay.eye@bigfoot.com for more information.

Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express

Meeting monthly in Darlington, northeast England new members always welcome. contact Simon at simonb250@hotmail.com http://ukuleleexpress.blogspot.com

Tune Army Ukulele Club

The Bay Horse, Front Street, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EF Meeting first Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:30 http://tunearmy.blogspot.com/

UkeGlos Ukulele Club

Meets Every Mondays every month, 8.00pm The Exmouth Arms, Bath Rd Cheltenham, GL53 7LX

Wooden & banjo ukes welcome. All levels of playing ability & song styles. For full details visit: www.ukeglos.co.uk http://www.ukeglos.co.uk

Ukulele Sundays host:Tim Smithies

email: tim@timsmithies.com
I host a Ukulele Jam session on Sunday evenings in Sheffield UK called 'Ukulele Sundays' All welcome - 8.30pm onwards. Riverside Cafe Bar. http://www.ukulelesundays.co.uk.

"Brighton ukulele Sundays"

Meet first Sunday of the month at the Brunswick Pub in Hove East Sussex UK. Visit Facebook Brighton Ukulele Sundays for more details.

Leicester Ukulele Club

All welcome, First Monday of the month, Upstairs at Babalas Bar, Queens Road, Leicester Contact: dave.davies1@virgin.net or mark@littleredtruck.co.uk

Herts of Uke Ukulele Club

Every 4th Sunday - 6.30pm onwards. Meet at The Doctors Tonic, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PR

All Players Welcome

Websites: http://sites.google.com/site/hertsofuke/

email: hertsofuke@gmail.com

Luton, UK

We meet once a fortnight at Greenbank Music Village,

Greenbank Hal, Cobden Street, Luton, LU2 ONG Anyone interested can give us a call:

Keith 07745 613931 Scott 07976 895067 Gerry 07785 117029

http://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleworkshopinluton/

Ireland

UKULELE IRELAND

ukulele@ireland.com Irish ukulele club meets on the second saturday of each month.Players from all over Ireland. Ukeplayers of all levelswelcome. If you are a visiting uke player please feel free to come along. The meetups are held at 2, eden park, Dunlaoire, Co. Dublin.

Ukuholics

truepants@eircom.net
The Ukuholics are based in the Irish Midlands and meet once a month.
Players of any or no ability will fit in nicely!
Visit www.ukuholics.webs.com for more info

Scotland

Monday Ukearist

Edinburgh's very own ukulele gathering. We gather once a fortnight on Mondays from 7 to 10(pm!) at Mackenzie School of English near the foot of Leith Walk

6 John's Place, EH6 7EP Contact: John Hobson, +44 (0)7940 513969, jhobson@gmail.com http://ukearist.co.uk

South Wales

Ukulele Nights

Cardiff's Ukulele Jam Session and Cabaret Meet Mondays 8 p.m. at assorted venues. Visit www.ukenights.org.uk for full listings and updates. Contact: Nick Canham witt29-ukenights1@yahoo.co.uk 07971 - 719626

Germany

Ukulele Club of Germany

info@ukulelenclub.de www.ukulelenclub.de (home page) www.ukulelenboard.de (message board)

Deutscher Ukulelenclub

c/o Raimund Sper Korneliusstrasse 1 D-47441 Moers tel. +49/2841-394837 fax + 49/2841-394836

Holland

Ukulele Jamboree in Rotterdam - hosted by 'The Uke Box'
The night is comprised of a workshop, performances & open mic.
To Join the Mailing List send an e-mail to: guaranteed2swoon@gmail.com

To read more about this and our other ukulele projects go to: http://www.ukulele-interventie.blogspot.com (Dutch) Visit my personal blog spot and click on 'Ukulele' under "Contents" (English) http://www.shelleyrickey.blogspot.com

'Uke & D'Uke'

http://ukeandduke.blogspot.com/ (in Dutch)

Note: Shelley has an Etsy store where you can find ukulele related items for sale, check it out: http://www.thejumpingfleamarket.etsy.com

France

Ukulele Club of Paris

Thursday starting 7:30 PM Meetings are announced on the website King David Ukulele Station at this URL: http://www.ukulele.fr

C.O.U.L.E.

Club Olympique de Ukulélé de Lille et des Environs http://www.COULE.fr

"Stay cool, come and play with the C.O.U.L.E."

VSAlele

Association des Ukuleliste de Valbonne Sophia Antipolis (Alpes Maritimes) Visit www.vsalele.org for more info

"Ukulele Social Club de Picardie" Amiens (France)

See more here: http://www.ukulpic.fr/

Clermont-Ferrand call "Le BOUC" (in french, Bougnat Original Ukulele Club).

Our website is: http://le-bouc.blogspot.com/

Spain

Club del Ukelele de Madrid (SPAIN)

http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=131466486122

"Para todos los aficionados al ukelele que viven en Madrid

"For all the ukelele fans living at Madrid"

Now preparing their first festival and meeting very soon - stay tuned!



USA

The Inaugural San Diego Ukulele Festival

Thursday July 14, 2011 to Saturday July 16, 2011 http://www.sandiegoukefestival.moonfruit.com/

UKULELE MELEE

THURSDAY, JULY 28,2011 4:00PM – 8:00PM

deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum 51 Sandy Pond Rd, Lincoln, MA 01773

Festival with performances by New England's talented ukulele musicians. Ukulele class for the first timers (instruments available for class) Workshops for beginners and intermediates

BRING YOUR UKULELE & PICNIC

Hosted by: UKULELE UNION OF BOSTON UKULELE UNION OF HARVARD

http://www.bostonuke.com/events/23593621/?eventId=23593621&action=detail

Belgium

Ukulele Zaza (Belgium) www.myspace.com/ukulelezaza

France

Marie Darling (France) www.myspace.com/mariedarling Patti Plinko and her Boy (UK) www.myspace.com/pattiplinkoandherboy Les Ukulélé Boyz (France) www.myspace.com/ukuleleboys47

Vonck and Vlam

www.vonck-vlam.eu Check out the Website... that's great entertainment!



Essential Links from the World-Wide-Web

UkeTalk - http://uketalk.com/links.html

"Ukulele Spoken Here" is one phrase that comes to mind. It you want to talk ukulele or catch all the news that is news, this is a can't miss website.

Brudda Bu's Ukulele Heaven

http://www.geocities.com/~ukulele/index.html

If you'd like to learn the history of some of ukulele's greatest players, this site is absolutely essential.

Ukulelia - http://www.ukulelia.com/

The World's Greatest Ukulele WebLog" Need I say more?

Ukulele Cosmos - http://www.ukulelecosmos.com

One of the hottest ukulele forums on the web. Don't Miss It!

Ukulele Underground

http://www.ukuleleunderground.com/forum/index.php

Another really popular ukulele forum, lots of Hawaiian players and folks from the West Coast of the Mainland USA.

Flea Market Music - http://www.fleamarketmusic.com/default.asp

This is Jumpin' Jim Beloff's website. He has lots of great resources and an excellent forum as well. You can buy Flukes and Fleas there, too. Jim also has lots of songbooks, DVDs, and other great stuff there.

UkeLadyMusic - http://www.ukeladymusic.com/

Auntie Noel runs a really great shop. Her passion is ukulele and it shows. Contact Us: phone 214-924-0408 or email noel.tardy@yahoo.com

Kiwi Ukulele

New Zealand's Ukulele Companion http://www.kiwiukulele.co.nz/

Bounty Music

http://www.ukes.com/

Bounty Music Maui 111 Hana Hwy. #105 Kahului, Maui, Hl 96732 open 9:00 to 6:00 Monday thru Saturday * Sunday 10:00 to 4:00

Phone: (808) 871-1141 Fax: (808) 871-1138

Online Resources

http://www.tikiking.com tikiking@tikiking.com comment=Website listing:

Home of Tiki King Ukuleles since 1999. lots of neat Ukulele stuff, such as the webs largest Ukulele makers database, Custom Hand Built Tiki King Ukuleles, and ukulele stuff to see and buy. We have Flukes and Fleas, Ukulele Art Gallery, Ukulele classes, chord charts, CD's and more!

Bonsai Garden Orchestra

email: info@bgo.nu

Webside: http://www.bgo.nu

MySpace: http://www.myspace.com/bonsaigardenorchestra

World Music Festival "glattundverkehrt" on july 22nd . www.glattundverkehrt.at

UkePics

Assorted Ukulele Picture Exposé http://www.ukepics.com/

How High The Moon Publishing

Publisher of the Jam Book "Play Well with Other" 9826 James A. Reed Rd. Kansas City, MO 64134 816-965-0183 or 816-728-6936 http://www.moonbookstore.com

Uke Farm - http://www.ukefarm.com/home.HTML **Uke Farm Radio** - http://www.live365.com/stations/ukefarm

GoChords

http://www.gochords.com "GoChords™ is an easy-to-use writing and playing tool with moveable chord tablature!"

Live 'Ukulele

Tabs, lessons, and info for 'ukulele enthusiasts http://liveukulele.com/

http://ukeattitude.blogspot.com/ http://twitter.com/ukeattitude

http://www.gotaukulele.com

http://ukulele-perspective.com